

# **ANALYSIS OF THE MILITARY SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN**

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WASHINGTON, D.C.**



**ANALYSIS OF THE MILITARY  
SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN**

**The Congress of the United States  
Congressional Budget Office**



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## PREFACE

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In 1980, the Congress enacted major revisions to the military Survivor Benefit Plan. These changes were prompted by inequities in the plan that had developed since its enactment in 1972.

This study first analyzes the Survivor Benefit Plan before the 1980 revisions, showing how inequities in that plan affected government expenditures and the portion of costs paid by military retirees. The study then evaluates numerous alternatives to the plan that were debated by the Congress. The study's evaluations were presented to the Congress during its deliberations and are documented here for reference.

The analyses were done at the request of the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Manpower and Personnel of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the House Armed Services Committee. In accordance with CBO's mandate to provide objective analysis, the study makes no recommendations.

The study was prepared by Robert F. Hale of the National Security and International Affairs Division of the Congressional Budget Office, under the general supervision of David S.C. Chu. The results benefit from extensive analysis performed for CBO by David Wilt of the American Management Systems, Inc. The author also gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Julia Doherty, Harold Furchtgott, John Green, and Nancy Swope of the CBO staff, and the assistance of the Department of Defense in providing data and the basic cost model. Francis Pierce and Robert L. Faherty edited the manuscript; Janet Stafford prepared it for publication, in addition to typing the numerous preliminary analyses that preceded this final document.

Alice M. Rivlin  
Director

March 1981



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